

ERFURT DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME (EPPP)

GUIDELINE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF RESEARCH-RELATED MATERIAL AND TRAVEL EXPENSES FROM EPPP FUNDS (SACHKOSTENSTIPENDIEN)

In accordance with § 13 of the Framework Regulations of the Erfurt Doctoral and Postdoctoral Programme (EPPP-RO), fellows of EPPP-certified Graduate Centres or the Max Weber Kolleg can apply for reimbursement of material and travel expenses that are directly related to the research project (Sachkostenstipendien).

Who can apply for reimbursement of research-related material and travel expenses?

All doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers who are members of an EPPP-certified Graduate Centre or the Max Weber Kolleg and are registered as full members at the Research and Graduate Services are eligible to apply.

What budget is available to full members in the EPPP?

All doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers registered as full members can apply for reimbursement of research-related material and travel expenses of up to EUR 600 per year from the Research and Graduate Services.

The entitlement period for the reimbursement of research-related material and travel expenses begins on the date of admission as a full member of an EPPP-Graduate Centre or the Max Weber Kolleg. Funds that are not utilized in the respective membership year are carried over to the following year. Doctoral candidates can claim the reimbursement for up to four years (totalling EUR 2,400). Postdoctoral researchers can claim the reimbursement for up to five years (totalling EUR 3,000).

The utilization of funds is generally subject to budgetary reservation, so there is no legal entitlement for the reimbursement. Premature termination of the full membership of the EPPP may lead to a (partial) reclaim of funds already paid.

Which costs can be reimbursed from EPPP funds?

Research-related material and travel expenses that are directly related to the research project are eligible for reimbursement. The costs can only be reimbursed if they are not covered by third parties (e.g. as part of third-party funded projects etc.). Work equipment and working materials can only be reimbursed if they are not provided by the University of Erfurt.

Reimbursable research-related material expenses include in particular:

- Costs for data collection (including conducting interviews and access to archives, materials, incentives)
 - If test subjects receive compensation or a raffle of vouchers takes place, receipt lists or confirmations of receipt must be enclosed with the reimbursement application.
- Costs for data preparation and evaluation (including special software/licences and associated user training)
- Printing costs (e.g. posters, obligatory copies of doctoral theses)
- Costs for translation or proofreading
- Costs for access to specialised literature (e.g. interlibrary loan fees, library access) and, in justified cases, for the purchase of specialised literature
 - In the case of purchase of specialised literature, the application for reimbursement must be accompanied by a self declaration confirming that the literature - which is urgently required for the project - is not available at Erfurt University Library and is difficult to access via interlibrary loan.

Material costs can only be reimbursed if the documents (evidence) submitted clearly show the specific service or product for which the costs were incurred.

Reimbursable research-related travel expenses include in particular:

- Travel expenses in the context of data collection and literature work (e.g. interviews and archival research)
- Travel expenses for research stays
- Travel expenses for attending research-related events (symposia, workshops, conferences)

After the end of the entitlement period, travel expenses can only be reimbursed if the reason for travelling is no later than three months after the end of the entitlement period and all costs were incurred within the entitlement period. Costs incurred later cannot be reimbursed. Please notify the Research and Graduate Services of any such requirements before the end of the membership period.

In the case of higher expenses, it is recommended that you check in advance with the Research and Graduate Services whether the costs are eligible for reimbursement and whether the available budget covers the expenses.

Travel expenses are reimbursed in accordance with the Thüringer Reisekostengesetz (Thuringian Travel Expenses Act):

- Eligible for reimbursement are participation fees, travel costs from the place of employment (usually Erfurt) and accommodation costs in accordance with the Städtekatalog ("city catalogue").
- All applications for reimbursement of travel expenses must be submitted to the Research and Graduate Services no later than three months after the research trip.

Not eligible for reimbursement are, among other things, expenses for:

- Office equipment (e.g. computer, laptop, tablet, printer, office furniture)
- Office consumables (e.g. stationery supplies, printer cartridges)
- Contributions for memberships in professional association
- Invoices and fees from the University of Erfurt (e.g. matriculation fees)
- Journeys between your own home and the University of Erfurt as well as to supervisors or chairholder's homes
- Daily allowance, costs for catering and for cultural events within professional academic events
- Travel expenses/participation fees for workshops on key competences or for advanced trainings

When and how can I apply for reimbursement of research costs from EPPP funds?

Overview graphic

For business trips (only for employees of the University of Erfurt):

Please submit a business trip application in good time before the start of the business trip and submit it to the Research and Graduate Services for signature. Once the business trip has been completed, please submit the travel expense claim to the Research and Graduate Services.

For all other reimbursements and travel expenses of EPPP full members who are not employees of the UE:

Applications for reimbursement of research-related material and travel expenses incurred by you in the current year can be submitted at any time by post or electronically (graduiertenfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de) to the Research and Graduate Services using the application form.

Please submit applications for reimbursement of costs not later than the book closure date of each year (beginning of December). Applications received after the book closer date cannot be processed and therefore the costs incurred cannot be reimbursed. Costs incurred after the book closer date can be claimed in the following year.

What documents must be enclosed with the application?

- Completed and signed application form
- Original invoice(s) (e.g. bills, tickets)
- Proof(s) of payment (e.g. receipts, bank statements)